markets, which ultimately affected the availability of raw material to a large number of weavers in the country (including those in Tamil Nadu). Consequently, there was an increase in the prices of raw silk in the country. However, Government is not aware whether disturbances in Karnataka on account of the Cauvery issue had any adverse effect on the raw silk prices.

The Central Silk Board (C.S.B.) and the concerned State Governments have already initiated various measures to control the pebrine disease. Besides, in order to increase the availability of raw silk to the weavers at reasonable rates, the Government of India has permitted import of 200 metric tonnes of raw silk by the Central Silk Board and the designated agencies. Out of the initial quantity of 50.4 tonnes being imported by the Central Silk Board, Cooptex of Tamil Nadu has been allotted 27 tonnes.

Directives Issued to N.T.C.

2823. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued directives for the future course of action by National Textile Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No specific directives have been issued by the Government to National Textile Corporation on the future course of action by NTC.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Handloom Clothes

2824. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what target has been set and what achievement has been made in the export of Handloom Clothes;

(b) whether a new policy package has been prepared by Government;

(c) if so, what are the main features of the proposed programme; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure regular availability of raw materilas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) An export target of Rs. 489 crores for the year 1991-92 weas fixed for cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups. During the period April 1991—January 1992, the exports of cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups amounted to Rs. 538 crores. Thus the export target for the full year has been over achieved by Rs. 49 crores during the first ten months of the year 1991-92.

(b) and (c) Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras is undertaking a programme for upgradation of handloom production facilities mainly for exports in coordination with the Weavers Service Centres, Directorate of Handlooms and other concerned organisations. The programme seeks to identify the existing technology and processes employed, take appropriate measures for increasing productivity and improving quality of output in these Centres. The programme also- envisages a productwise scheme for increasing exports.

(d) In order to ensure adequate and regular supplies of yarn to weavers at reasonable prices, Government has certain arrangements of standing nature, such as (i) the Hank Yam Obligation Scheme which requires every producer of yarn to pack at least 50% of the total yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form; (ii) loan assistance to National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of new weavers cooperative spinning mills and expansion of existing mills for encouraging captive production in the handloom sector; (iii) operations of National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC); (iv) constitution of State Level Yarn Price Fixation Committees to regulate selling prices of hank yarn produced by cooperative and state sector mills for supplies to the handloom weavers; (v) complete exemption of excise duty on plain reeled hank yam.